

Date: 27th March 2013

Title: Update Report on Area Community Planning Groups

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which Area Community Planning Groups are making as they progress to becoming key partnership groups for local areas to plan and monitor aims and objectives and delivery of services within local communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Partnership note the progress which the Area Community Planning Groups are making.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The Area Community Planning Groups have had two positive rounds of recent meetings, with all of them being generally better attended by partners and also by community groups and representatives. Their agendas have been focussed on items of partnership significance to areas, and on items brought forward by community groupings, resulting in meetings which have engaged in lively and positive debate. In Helensburgh in particular there has been positive discussion about the improved effectiveness of the meeting, and the need to encourage more Community Councils to attend and participate in the work of the group.
- 3.2** Bute and Cowal's December meeting had its bi annual update from the Chief Executive of ACHA, and considered economic activity in Argyll and Bute. They also dealt with a number of issues raised by the Caucus of Community Councils. The March meeting had update on NHS Highland health screening programmes, a very informative presentation on the work of the Cowal Elderly Befrienders Group and had updates from a range of partners including Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Scottish Water and Argyll Voluntary Action.
- 3.3** The December MAKI meeting had a very informative presentation on Health screening programmes and also on Economic Development Activity in Argyll and Bute. They had very useful updates from core partners including Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and NHS Highland. They also progressed a number of issues relating to Broadband and mobile phone coverage of the MAKI area. In March the group had updates from ACHA and on the recent HM Inspection of the Tarbert Academy Learning Community, as a result of which they asked that this item be taken forward to the full Partnership meeting to

enable replication of this effective process in other learning communities in Argyll and Bute.

- 3.5** The Oban Lorn and the Isles meeting in December, which was an evening meeting, focused on updates on service delivery and development issues from various partners and had detailed and informative presentations on the Change Fund, on the proposed new Oban High School, on core path development including Oban to Ganavan, Oban to Fort William and path projects being taken forward by Ardchatten Community Council. They also had discussion about wider economic activity in the Oban Lorn and the Isles area, and the benefits of an integrated approach to core path planning being taken to ensure sustainable economic tourism development. The March OLI meeting had input in relation to NHS screening programmes, and to some of the economic development activities being taken forward in the area including the Lorn Arc Project, Oban Airport and Oban High School. The meeting also benefitted from an input by AVA on the Survive and Thrive Project.
- 3.6** The December meeting of the Helensburgh Lomond Group was well attended and heard updates on economic activity in the area and on the Maritime Change Programme currently underway at HMNB Faslane. Partner updates were provided by AVA, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and a number of issues raised by Community Councils were progressed. Health updates were given regarding health screening programmes. The Helensburgh Lomond March meeting had an update presentation on the work of ACHA and very good updates and interaction from and by core partners. Discussion took place on the generally increased effectiveness and purpose of the CPG and the need to encourage more Community Councils to attend.
- 3.7** In addition to the matters noted above, items which were discussed at all of the meetings included the forthcoming Area Forums as part of the Community Planning Partnership Community Engagement Strategy, the draft Single Outcome Agreement and the Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. Agendas are now being formulated for the next round of meetings in June, items for discussion will include presentation of education performance information.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Area community planning meetings will continue to focus on issues of local concern which reflect local priorities and provide partners and community representatives with the opportunity to oversee local service issues. The generally positive momentum which the groups have developed over recent months continues to be built on in the expectation that this will further enhance attendance by both partners and community representatives.

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